Shadow Lawn

Cedar and Norwood Avenues, West Long Branch

This palatial manor house was built in 1927 for Hubert T. Parsons, president of the F.W. Woolworth Company. Faced with Indiana limestone, the rather somber exterior hides a three-story interior courtyard covered with a skylight. Horace Trumbauer, Philadelphia's master of the Gilded Age, was architect of record, but in all likelihood his able chief designer, Julian Abele, America's first professional black architect, deserves equal credit. Parsons lost his fortune in the Depression, and in 1939, Shadow Lawn, which had cost millions, was sold for \$100. In 1956 it became the central building of Monmouth College.